

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 SAJ-01

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R 181404Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3495

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1723

EO: 11652: GDS

TAG: ETRD EFIN EALR CO UR COMECON

SUBJ: POSSIBLE COLOMBIAN AGREEMENT WITH COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECO-
NOMIC ASSISTANCE

REF: BOGOTA 1049 (NOTAL), MOSCOW 1657 (NOTAL) MOSCOW A-22 (NOTAL)

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1. AS REPORTED BOGOTA 1049, LOCAL PRESS CARRIED REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO CARLOS HOLMES TRUJILLO, COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO EAST GERMANY, TO THE EFFECT THAT COLOMBIAN WOULD SOON SIGN A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH CEMA. HOLMES TRUJILLO SUGGESTED THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE OF IMMENSE BENEFIT TO COLOMBIA, AND HE DESCRIBED IT AS ONE OF THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION.

2. ROBERTO SOTO, FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT COLOMBIA IS NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT WITH CEMA. ACCORDING TO SOTO, THE AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED SOMETIME TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

3. AN AGREEMENT WITH CEMA WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S STATED POLICY OF ESTABLISHING CLOSER ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH NON-TRADITIONAL TRADING PARTNERS, EXEMPLIFIED MOST RECENTLY BY THE COLOMBIAN-ROMANIAN PETROLEUM/MINERALS AGREEMENT (BOGOTA 1668). HOWEVER, THE NEAR TERM IMPACT IS LIKELY TO BE MORE POLITICAL THAN ECONOMIC. COLOMBIA ALREADY ENJOYS A SUBSTANTIAL BILATERAL TRADE SURPLUS WITH NEARLY ALL CEMA MEMBERS, INCLUDING CUBA, AND SO FAR HAS TAKEN LITTLE ADVANTAGE OF CREDITS OFFERED BY THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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